

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 13184-US-PA  
Application No.: 10/710,696

**REMARKS**

**Present Status of the Application**

Claims 1-9, 10-14 and 17-21 are objected. In addition, claims 10-14 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Mund et al. in view of Noma et al. and Funada et al. (U. S. Patent 5,101,099). Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to overcome objections. Claims 10-14 and 17-21 have been cancelled. After entry of amendments, claims 1-9 remain pending in the present application at the condition for formal allowance.

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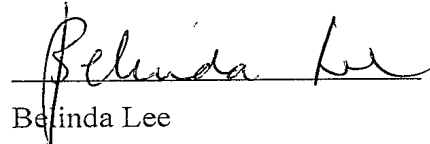
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-9 of the invention patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date :

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